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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 CELINA G. AFENIR,) Civil No.08cv1255 WQH (AJB)
11 Plaintiff,)
12 v.) ORDER SETTING EARLY NEUTRAL
13 COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS; BLUE) EVALUATION CONFERENCE;
14 HORIZON CAPITAL; IMPAC FUNDING) BRIEFING SCHEDULE AND BRIEFING
15 CORPORATION; MORTGAGE) REQUIREMENTS
16 ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION;)
17 SYSTEMS, INC., RECONTRUST)
COMPANY,)
Defendants.)

)

18 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that an Early Neutral Evaluation of the above entitled action will be
19 held on ***November 3, 2008*** at ***1:30 p.m.*** in the chambers of Judge Anthony J. Battaglia, U.S. Courts
20 Building, 940 Front St., Room 1145, San Diego, California.

21 **Mandatory Appearance Requirements**

22 Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 16.1.c of the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the
23 Southern District of California, **all counsel and each party, in addition to any other person(s) who**
has full and unlimited authority¹ to negotiate and enter into a binding settlement must appear in

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26 ¹ “Full authority to settle” means that the individuals at the settlement conference be authorized
27 to fully explore settlement options and to agree at that time to any settlement terms acceptable to the
parties. Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648 (7th Cir. 1989). The person

1 **person at the conference and must be prepared to discuss the claims, defenses and damages.**

2 **Governmental entities may appear through litigation counsel only. As to all other parties,**

3 **appearance by litigation counsel only is not acceptable.** The parties must be prepared to present
4 demands and offers of settlement. **The failure of any counsel, party or authorized person subject to**
5 **this order to appear in person will result in the immediate imposition of sanctions.** Sanctions will
6 include, but will not be limited to, the attorneys' fees and travel costs of the other parties in the case. In
7 addition, the conference will not proceed and will be reset to another date.

8 *In cases where a party is incarcerated at the time of the scheduled conference, arrangements
9 will be made for the incarcerated party to appear telephonically.*

10 **Preparing for the ENE**

11 Plaintiff's counsel must give notice of the Early Neutral Evaluation conference to all defendants
12 making an appearance after the date of this notice.

13 All conference discussions will be informal, off the record, privileged and confidential.

14 In preparation for the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference, plaintiff(s) must submit a settlement
15 brief to chambers, through their counsel where applicable, by e-mail to
16 *efile_battaglia@casd.uscourts.gov* **AND** serve it on all other counsel and any unrepresented parties by
17 ***October 20, 2008.***

18 Plaintiff(s) brief must include the following:

19 1. A brief description of the case and the claims asserted;

20 2. A specific and current demand for settlement addressing all relief or remedies sought. If
21 a specific demand for settlement cannot be made at the time the brief is submitted, then
22 the reasons therefor must be stated along with a statement as to when the plaintiff(s) will
23 be in a position to state a demand; and

24 needs to have "unfettered discretion and authority" to change the settlement position of a party. Pitman
25 v. Brinker Int'l, Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003). The purpose of requiring a person with
26 unlimited settlement authority to attend the conference includes that the persons view of the case may be
altered during the face to face conference. Pitman at 486. A limited or a sum certain of authority is not
adequate. Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc., 270 F.3d 590 (8th Cir. 2001).

1 3. A brief description of any previous settlement negotiations, mediation sessions or
2 mediation efforts.

3 Defendant(s) must submit a settlement brief to chambers, through counsel where applicable, by
4 e-mail to *efile_battaglia@casd.uscourts.gov* and serve it on all other counsel and any unrepresented
5 parties by ***October 27, 2008***.

6 Defendant(s) brief must include the following:

- 7 1. A brief description of the defendant(s) position concerning plaintiff(s) allegations, any
8 defenses and any counter-claims or set-offs asserted;
- 9 2. A specific and current response to plaintiff(s) demand and the defendant(s) specific offer
10 of settlement; and,
- 11 3. A brief description of any previous settlement negotiations, mediation sessions or
12 mediation efforts.

13 General statements that a party will "negotiate in good faith" is not a specific demand or offer
14 contemplated by this Order. It is assumed that all parties will negotiate in good faith.

15 ***The briefs are limited to five (5) pages and must not include exhibits, attachments, or
16 incorporate by reference the pleadings on file or other material.***

17 **Request for Continuance or to Vacate ENE date**

18 ***Absent extraordinary circumstances, a request to continue the ENE will not be considered
19 unless submitted via a joint motion to continue the date no less than fourteen days prior to the
20 scheduled conference.***

21 Any request to continue the conference or request for relief from any of the provisions or
22 requirements of this Order must be sought by a written joint motion. The joint motion must be
23 supported by a declaration of counsel setting forth the reasons and justifications for the relief requested;
24 confirm compliance with Civil Local Rule 26.1; and, report the position of opposing counsel or any
25 unrepresented parties subject to the Order.

26 If the case is settled in its entirety before the scheduled date of the conference, counsel and any
27 unrepresented parties must still appear in person, unless a joint motion to vacate a conference date due
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1 to the complete settlement of the case is submitted no less than 24 hours before the scheduled confer-
2 ence.

3 **Future Proceedings**

4 In the event the case does not settle at the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference, and where the
5 parties have not yet held the Rule 26(f) conference or made initial disclosures, the parties shall also be
6 prepared to discuss the following matters at the conclusion of the conference:

- 7 1. Any anticipated objections under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1)(E) to the
8 initial disclosure provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1)(A-D);
- 9 2. The scheduling of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) conference;
- 10 3. The date of initial disclosure and the date for lodging the discovery plan following the
11 Rule 26(f) conference; and,
- 12 4. The scheduling of a Case Management Conference pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
13 Procedure 16(b).

14 The Court will issue an appropriate order addressing these issues and setting dates as appropri-
15 ate. Questions regarding this case may be directed to the Judge's chambers at (619) 557-3446.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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18 DATED: October 6, 2008

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20 Hon. Anthony J. Battaglia
U.S. Magistrate Judge
United States District Court
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